possible. They made arrangements for a preliminary survey of hookworm in Travancore. Specimens from 13 widely separated places in Travancore were collected over a number of days and sent to Dr. Kendrick. Two days ago I studied the results of their systematic examination. You will be surprised to hear that the percentage of positive infection varies from 86 to 100 showing an average of 96 per cent. Dr. Kendrick is of opinion that Travancore shows the heaviest hookworm infection hitherto found in South India. There are other insidious diseases too. Let us hope that the Foundation will come to our aid in the directions where our medical and sanitary services feel the need for guidance and help. A formal request has been despatched to the President of the Foundation in New York. If they do come to our aid with their vast and varied experience, their resources and their organisation, I am sure the people of the State will secure a lasting benefit.

18. Epidemics. That brings me to the finger of death which has been pointed menacingly towards the State during the last few months. Bubonic plague settled upon many British Indian towns and villages on our north-eastern frontier. There is a free intermingling of people and a considerable trade between the afflicted areas and the large and important planting district of the High Range of Travancore. Precautionary measures were taken to ward off the entry of the disease into this region. But the stealthy ways of the plague are hard to counter. The disease broke out at Munnar. It had to be eradicated and its re-entry prevented at all cost. Drastic measures were taken. A chain of block-houses, preventive and observation stations, was set up at all points of ingress and egress. The town of Munnar was completely evacuated. Shops and bazaars and public offices were closed. Estate cooly lines were dismantled or unroofed and coolies on affected estates were segregated in special camps. There are over 25,000 coolies on the estates. The sources of food supply were diverted to non-infected areas and the transport and handling of grain and provisions were strictly controlled. Inoculation was everywhere carried on vigorously and a ruthless campaign was kept up against rats. Destruction was carried into their burrows by means of appliances specially manufactured for the purpose. The Commissioner of Police was deputed to afford the Commissioner of Devicolam special assistance. A senior medical officer to control and co-ordinate the work of 10 other medical officers was detailed for duty in connection with plague. In all these measures the controlling officers and the medical officers of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company co-operated with singleness of purpose. I am happy to say that there were in all only 11 attacks and 6 deaths. I take this opportunity of giving public expression of the thanks of the Government to Mr. Pinches, General Manager of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company and to Dr. Finlayson, his chief medical officer, for their ready co-operation and invaluable help. Mr. Cameron met the situation with courage and tact and untiring effort. At the most serious stage of the crisis he was ably seconded by Mr. Pitt and by Mr. Gopala Pillai, the special Medical and Sanitary Officer. Mr. Herbert Parrait was deputed to guard the Peermade front and has proved himself a most effective warden of the marches. When the anxiety of the plague menace had begun to pass, cholera broke out in South Travancore. The rapidity with which the disease spread over a scattered area resulted in an unfortunate toll of 380 lives. Here too special measures were taken. Three squads of selected medical officers provided with motor transport were despatched to the affected areas. Medical aid was taken to the doors of the sufferers. In the case of the needy, nourishment, new clothes and mats were provided gratis. The immunity secured by inoculation had an immediate effect upon the people who flocked for inoculation. Chlorination of water-supplies and disinfection were vigorously carried out. All this was achieved under the immediate eye and enthusiastic generalship of Dr. Raman Tampi, the Inspecting Medical Officer. Those of you who come from South Travancore know that the epidemic was stayed within a very short time.

19. Distinguished Visitors. In November last the State had the privilege of receiving, as the guests of Her Highness, His Excellency Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Commander-in-Chief in India, and Lady Birdwood. Their courtesy and kindliness won the hearts of the people who everywhere thronged to give them an enthusiastic welcome.

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